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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
10 June 1955

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Spanish broadcasts to North Africa via Radio Tetuan

1. The colloquial Arabic broadcasts to North Africa from Radio Tetuan, in Spanish Morocco, are designed primarily to annoy the French but may also be aimed at building good will for Spain among the Arab states. The broadcasts reflect Spanish irritation over unilateral action in deposing the sultan of Morocco in August 1953. Paris has several times stiffly protested to Madrid, without apparent success. However, the tone of the broadcasts recently moderated after a more powerful transmitter went into operation.

2. Since early 1954 the administration in Spanish Morocco has baited the French authorities in Morocco and Paris by broadcasting in the local Arabic dialect anti-French propaganda over Radio Tetuan. At first these broadcasts dealt primarily with justification of Spain's policy in refusing to recognize either the deposition or the new sultan.

3. By August 1954, the broadcasts had become inflammatory, emphasizing actual or fictional incidents of terrorism in French Morocco. Terrorists were frequently referred to as "the redeemers," and the general tone appeared designed to incite further terrorism. By emphasizing the "excellent administration" and the "happy conditions" in Spanish Morocco, Spain seems to hope to avoid nationalist repercussions inside its own territory. A few slight concessions have been made to Spanish Moroccans, but Madrid continues its close control.

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5. Spanish high commissioner Garcia-Valino has considerable latitude in administering Spanish Morocco. He is responsible directly to Generalissimo Franco, not to the Foreign Ministry, and friction has developed between Garcia-Valino and the Foreign Ministry concerning the high commissioner's activities in Morocco.

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